

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2005

CONTACT: MARIL E. ALSUP
Public Affairs Specialist
(413) 253-4314 or
maril.alsup@ma.usda.gov

Coventry Receives the Lion's Share of USDA Wastewater Funds for Connecticut

Coventry, CT – Just days after the town passed a vote endorsing a request for \$2.5 million to complete the sewer project around Coventry Lake, Town Manager John Elsesser welcomed a visit from USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle, who arrived with two substantial checks in hand. The checks were not only robust in size but in their dollar amounts too – one for, \$2,959,770 to complete the fourth and fifth phase of the sewer project and the other for \$2,743,345 which includes the funds voted on last Tuesday as well as money to cover any contingency fees. In fact, the federal checks presented to the town today at the site of the new sewer pump station, are the biggest loan and grant checks that USDA Rural Development has provided for a Connecticut wastewater project this fiscal year and will fully finance the completion of Coventry's sewer project.

“Without the financial assistance of USDA Rural Development, the financial burden of the sewer installation project would have been beyond the economic capacity of our residents,” said Town Manager John Elsesser. “It is great to partner with the federal government to solve local problems.”

The federal funds that arrived in Coventry today come in the form of \$1,694,115 in grants and \$4,009,000 in low-interest loans and will enable the Town to extend sewer service to an additional 380 users for a total of 1,241 homes and 4,152 residents of Coventry served. Today's funds combined with previous funding for the sewer project from USDA Rural Development in 2003 and 2004 brings the total federal assistance provided for the endeavor to \$13,203,759.

“Our job at USDA Rural Development is to help families, communities and businesses build the basic community infrastructure they need to thrive” said USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle. “An effective, reliable sewer system for the folks of Coventry not only improves the quality of life here but helps to increase economic opportunities as well.”

USDA Rural Development invested over \$34.9 million in Connecticut in Fiscal Year 2004 to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.



###